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HUMAN RIGHTS

Newsletter

A Monthly publication of the National Human Rights Commission, India



Lead story

NHRC, India joins global fraternity in Geneva to discuss and address emerging human rights issues

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Volume 31 | Number 05 | May, 2024

National Human Rights Commission

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Monthly Recap

From the desk of the Secretary General & Chief Executive

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With a rich ancient culture and tradition that fosters rights of all living beings, NHRIs of various countries and international organizations especially in the global South look upto India.

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The month of May at the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India was a very busy period and full of activities. The Commission held a number of sittings and cases of human rights violations were taken up in a big number, which brought relief to complainants whose human rights were violated. The Commission was actively engaged in multiple national and international events, where the role played by the NHRC in protecting and promoting human rights of all, was highlighted.

A variety of mechanisms are in place to protect and promote the human rights of people globally, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the Paris Principles, the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), and four regional groupings of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) covering Africa, the Americas, Asia-Pacific, and Europe. Together, these groupings represent 120 NHRIs forming the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) headquartered in Geneva's Palais des Nations. The GANHRI closely collaborates with the UN Human Rights Council, providing a robust platform for mutual learning and fortifying the human rights movement.

On 5th May 2024, the NHRC delegation, comprising the Hon'ble Chairperson, Justice Arun Mishra, and myself, attended the Asia Pacific Forum (APF) Governance Committee Meeting with South Korea, Mongolia and Jordan, in Geneva. India, as a founding member of the APF of NHRIs, actively participated in this significant event and made a meaningful contribution. On 6th May 2024, we attended the GANHRI Bureau meeting with NHRIs from 16 countries, followed by the GANHRI General Assembly meeting and the NHRI Knowledge Exchange of Good Practices on 7th May. On 8th May, 2024, we took part in the GANHRI Annual Conference on Business and Human Rights. As the Chairperson of the GANHRI Finance Committee which comprises NHRIs of El Salvador, India, Malawi and the United Kingdom, I presented the financial reports, audit report, budget proposals and fundraising strategies for 2024. Finally, on 9th May 2024, we attended the annual meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (CFNHRI) where NHRIs from Commonwealth countries convened to review CFNHRI's work and plan for the future.

With a rich ancient culture and tradition that fosters rights of all living beings, NHRIs of various countries and international organizations especially in the global South look upto India. These meetings and gatherings provided an opportunity to underscore India's commitment to human rights, sharing diverse and rich practices exemplifying our role in international forums dedicated to fostering peace and prosperity, essential for safeguarding the human rights of every individual.

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India is well-placed to lead global discussions and debates on promoting and protecting human rights. We now offer valuable lessons to other nations on providing basic amenities and ensuring dignity to all, especially those belonging to the marginalized communities.

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India is well-placed to lead global discussions and debates on promoting and protecting human rights. We now offer valuable lessons to other nations on providing basic amenities and ensuring dignity to all, especially those belonging to marginalized communities. The Commission remains steadfast in its dedication to contributing to the collective mission of protecting and promoting human rights. Through collaborative endeavors, we can amplify our impact and extend assistance to those in need.

On 1st June 2024, the Hon'ble Chairperson Justice Arun Mishra and Hon'ble Member, Shri Rajiv Jain, demitted the office after three years at the NHRC. Their expertise and drive to protect and promote human rights of all was instrumental in the expansion of the activities of the Commission and its outreach. During their three-year tenure, 2,88,695 complaints were registered and 2,95,048 cases were disposed of, including those from previous years. More than 200 complaints were registered after the Commission took suo moto cognizance. In this period, the Commission awarded ₹ 47,72.26 lakh as compensation to the victims of human rights violations. Reinstating the role played by States and UTs in protecting human rights of the vulnerable groups, the Commission issued 13 advisories including on Mental Health, Rights of Truck Drivers, Environmental Pollution and Degradation, the Welfare of Transgender Persons, to Mitigate Deliberate Self-Harm and Suicide Attempts by Prisoners; Child Sexual Abuse Material; to Prevent, Minimise and Mitigate Ocular Trauma, on Widows, and Beggars.

This edition of the Monthly Newsletter also has a special article on the General Elections 2024 authored by Shri Syed Akbaruddin, Former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations. In it, he talks about the importance of elections as a Fundamental Right of the citizens of the country, and as a vital part of our human rights. The article highlights the important role played by the electoral procedure in ensuring that people from all sections of society, including vulnerable groups, have the opportunity to express their mandate.

The Monthly Newsletter presents a comprehensive report on the discussions held during the meetings from NHRC, India's perspective, alongside updates on other international engagements, including the visit of NHRC, India Member, Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani and Joint Secretary, Smt. Anita Sinha to the 14th Open Ended Working Group on Ageing in New York.

To raise awareness among the public, institutions, and government authorities, the NHRC, India, among various initiatives, also publishes an annual Hindi journal titled 'Manav Adhikar: Nayi Dishayein'. This edition includes a brief report on the advisory board meeting discussing ways to enhance its distribution and outreach, especially in rural areas. Additionally, the Commission has launched the 10th edition of its 'Short Film Competition on Human Rights' to encourage creative expressions on various themes related to human rights. I am sure that you will find this edition of newsletter informative and interesting.

**[Bharat Lal]**

Secretary General &
Chief Executive Officer



Lead story

NHRC, India joins global fraternity in Geneva to discuss and address emerging human rights issues

Hon'ble Chairperson Justice Arun Mishra and Secretary General Shri Bharat Lal of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India undertook a significant visit to Geneva from 5th to 9th May 2024, to participate in various international meetings of the Asia Pacific Forum (APF) and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). NHRC, India has been actively forging partnerships and collaborations aimed at enhancing human rights and quality of life, while fortifying the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs).

NHRC, India
Chairperson,
Justice Arun Mishra
and Secretary
General Shri Bharat
Lal participating in
the Governance
Committee
meeting of the Asia
Pacific Forum (APF)
of NHRIs in Geneva

On 5th May, 2024, Justice Mishra and Shri Lal participated in the Governance Committee meeting of the Asia Pacific Forum (APF) of NHRIs, which reviewed its Mid-term Report, Annual Operational Plan & Budget (2024-25), and APF policies. Subsequently, on 6th May, 2024, they joined the Regional Meeting



of the APF, to build strategies to bolster NHRIs in the region to uphold and safeguard human rights in their respective nations.

Shri Bharat Lal, in his capacity as Chairperson of the Finance Committee of the GANHRI, presented the financial report during the General Assembly in Geneva on 7th May, 2024. The Assembly adopted the financial and audit report, approved the budget for 2024, and outlined strategies for fundraising. Notably, alongside the NHRC, India, the Finance Committee also includes representatives from NHRIs of the UK, Malawi, and El Salvador.

On 8th May, 2024, Justice Mishra and Shri Lal participated in the GANHRI 2024 Annual Conference at Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 'Business and Human Rights: The Role and Experiences of NHRIs'. Addressing a session on 'Business

and Human Rights Regulations - Towards a Smart Mix', Justice Mishra highlighted India's endeavours to harmonize business activities with human rights principles. He stressed the necessity of a balanced approach, encompassing both voluntary and mandatory measures at national and international levels, to address the impacts of business activities on human rights.

Furthermore, Justice Mishra underscored NHRC, India's initiatives, including the formation of a core group on business and human rights and the issuance of various advisories, on different segments of society and vocations, aimed at achieving a harmonious balance between development imperatives and human rights for sustainable development.

**NHRC, India Chairperson Justice Arun Mishra
Addressing a session on 'Business and Human
Rights Regulations - Towards a Smart Mix'**



LEAD STORY

On the sidelines of the GANHRI 2024 Annual Meeting, NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal, took part in the NHRI Knowledge Exchange of Good Practices on the theme, 'Forced Displacement and Statelessness: Knowledge Exchange on the roles and experiences of NHRIs and opportunities under the Global Refugee Forum'. At this session, Shri Lal highlighted India's age-old practice of welcoming the stateless and those who have been forcefully displaced. From Syrian Christians and Jews, to Polish children who were given refuge during World War II, India has been a haven for the refugees since the pre-Independence era. Shri Lal also drew attention to the large number of citizens from Tibet, East Pakistan (Bangladesh), Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar who sought refuge in India after Independence.

At the GANHRI Annual Conference, more than 80 NHRIs endorsed the 'Outcome Statement on Business and Human

Rights', reaffirming their commitment to leveraging their mandates for human rights promotion, monitoring, and complaint handling, particularly in the realms of environment and climate change, online civic space and digital technologies, and a 'smart mix' of policy and regulatory measures.

The Outcome Statement also called for collaboration among NHRIs and UN partners to support the implementation of human rights principles in business practices. Additionally, Justice Mishra and Shri Lal attended the annual meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (CFNHRI) in Geneva, where NHRIs from Commonwealth countries convened to review CFNHRI's work and strategize for the future.

Delegates attending GANHRI
Annual Conference in Geneva



Article

My three years as NHRC, India Chairperson

- By Justice Arun Mishra



As I look back on my tenure just a day before it is going to end on the 1st June, 2024 as the Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India, I am filled with a sense of gratitude and responsibility. Over the past three years, since assuming office on 2nd June 2021, it has been both an honour and a challenge to lead an institution dedicated to protecting and promoting human rights in our diverse and vibrant nation.

From the outset, my vision for the NHRC has been guided by a deep commitment to upholding the principles of justice, equality, and human dignity. I firmly believe that every individual deserves to be treated with respect and dignity regardless of their background or circumstances. This belief has been the driving

force behind our efforts to address a wide range of human rights concerns, from the plight of vulnerable sections of society including women, children, bonded and migrant labourers, SC/ STs, nomadic tribes, truck drivers, LGBTQI+, sanitation workers, Persons with Disabilities among others to the challenges posed by emerging issues such as mental health, cyber crimes and environmental degradation to human rights worldwide.

One of the key areas of focus during my tenure was the issue of mental health, which remains a pressing concern. Recognizing the profound impact of mental illness on individuals and families, we have worked tirelessly to raise awareness and advocate for policy reforms to improve access to mental health services and

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the rehabilitation of cured patients. Through targeted interventions including visits of the Commission to four mental healthcare hospitals and 43 others in the country by its Special Rapporteurs, collaborations with stakeholders, and public awareness campaigns, we have sought to destigmatize mental illness and ensure that all individuals have access to the care and support they need to lead healthy and fulfilling lives.

Similarly, eradicating manual cleaning of sewage and hazardous waste and replacing it with mechanized cleaning remained a priority. This dehumanizing practice, which disproportionately affects marginalized communities, has no place in a modern and inclusive society. There are laws and policies to address this concern but implementation with a holistic approach of these provisions is what we persistently pushed more vigorously during these three years by engaging with government agencies, civil society organizations, and affected communities to promote the dignity and rights of these workers.

Environmental degradation due to water, air, soil and various other forms of pollution, carbon emissions, and decreasing green cover is an issue which directly impacts the right health and life of the people not only in India but in the entire world. As a Judge in the Supreme Court, I got the opportunity to be part of the Bench hearing the cases related to environmental pollution. After coming to the NHRC, a *suo moto* case was registered based on the media report indicating a reduction in lifespan by 10 years due to air pollution in Delhi caused by stubble burning and other related factors in the national capital and its surrounding States of Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.

In the online hearings of the matter spanning nearly two years, we expanded the scope of the hearing to various forms of environmental pollution including water, waste disposal, dust management, deforestation, and sanitation in all the States and Union Territories. During the online hearings, we asked their concerned Chief Secretaries to update the progress in the matter in a time-bound manner

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ensuring the promotion of clean fuel, afforestation, mechanized cleaning of sewage, and mechanized disposal of stubble with assistance to poor farmers among other measures. I am sure the positive impact of this collective effort on the ground will be visible in the coming years as it's a work in progress.

Reforms in the criminal justice system including forensic investigation, prison conditions, and legal aid to victims are also an area wherein the Commission has very meaningfully engaged with various stakeholders. In addition to these key areas of concern, we have undertaken a range of initiatives to strengthen the institutional mechanisms of the NHRC and enhance its effectiveness in addressing human rights violations. We have expanded core groups, diversified the composition of Special Monitors and Special Rapporteurs, and invested in research and capacity-building initiatives. These efforts have enabled us to monitor human rights situations more effectively, respond to emerging challenges with agility, and advocate for meaningful policy reforms based on solid evidence and analysis.

The multiple dialogues with experts and various stakeholders strengthened our commitment to issue advisories for the welfare and protection of the rights of various segments of society. The 13 such advisories, including on sanitation workers' right to food security and nutrition, bonded labour, persons affected with Leprosy, environment pollution, truck drivers, ocular trauma, prison, LGBTQI, mental health, CSAM, widows and beggars issued during the last three years is satisfying in the sense that their implementation will be effective in ameliorating the cause of human rights.

There were about 11,255 pending cases when I assumed the charge as Chairperson of the Commission along with the two Members, Justice M. M. Kumar and Shri Rajiv Jain on 2nd June, 2021. My focus was to expedite the disposal of cases and give relief to the victims. During the last three years of my tenure, it was perhaps for a very brief period that the Commission had the full strength of the Members. Still, we registered more than 2,88,695 cases including 213 *suo motu* cases. Indeed, it was challenging but satisfying that we were able to dispose off more than 2,95,048 cases including the carried forward cases from previous years bringing down the pendency beyond 50%, and recommend more than ₹ 47,76.26 lakh as relief to the victims or their next of kin in 1,123 cases.

Dialogue with human rights defenders, NGOs, and civil society organizations has also been a cornerstone of our approach to promoting and protecting human rights. We have sought to foster partnerships and collaboration with

these key stakeholders, recognizing the invaluable expertise, resources, and grassroots connections they bring to the table. By working together, we were able to amplify our impact, advocate for systemic reforms, and empower communities to claim their rights and hold duty-bearers accountable.

Moreover, our participation in national and global forums has provided valuable opportunities to advance the human rights agenda on a broader scale. We have actively engaged with international human rights mechanisms, contributed to global debates and discussions, and shared best practices and lessons learnt from our experiences in India. By participating in these forums, we have strengthened our commitment to upholding human rights standards and promoting accountability both at home and abroad. It was humbling to see the NHRC, India's appreciation for successfully organizing the international conference of the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) of Asia Pacific region with the participation of representatives from other global partners including the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), Asia Pacific Forum of NHRIs, diplomats, NGOs, and experts.

Furthermore, our engagement with the media has been instrumental in raising awareness about human rights issues and amplifying the voices of marginalized communities. 15,000 news clippings with reference to the NHRC during this period indicate this. Through strategic media engagements, we have sought to foster public dialogue, mobilize support for human rights causes, and hold government authorities and other stakeholders accountable for their actions. In three years, we gave 42 interviews to different print and electronic media besides four press conferences after camp sittings, issued more than 360 press releases, and about 3,000 X handle posts. By leveraging the power of the media, we have been able to shine a spotlight on human rights violations and advocate for meaningful change at both the policy and grassroots levels.

Looking ahead, my vision for the NHRC is one of continued growth, resilience, and impact. While there have been achievements over the past three years, there is still much work to be done as we know that promoting and protecting human rights is a work in progress. We must remain vigilant in the face of emerging human rights challenges, adaptive in our approach to addressing them, and unwavering in our commitment to upholding the dignity and rights of all individuals. By staying true to our values and working together with all stakeholders, I am confident that we can build a future where human rights are respected, protected, and upheld for all.

Article

Indian Elections – The Largest Exercise of a Human Right

– By Shri Syed Akbaruddin
Dean, Kautilya School of Public Policy & Former Diplomat



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Beyond the logistic marvel that Indian elections are, any assessment of the status of the human rights situation globally cannot overlook this display of the collective will of Indian citizens in fulfilling a vital part of the UDHR

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Indian citizens have just completed the largest collective exercise of a human right in the history of humankind. It is a right enshrined in Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which states as follows:

Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his/her country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.

The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this people's will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot or by equivalent free voting procedures.

So precious is this expression of free will in governance that it also finds resonance in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) whose Article 25 stipulates:

Every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity... without unreasonable restrictions:

To take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives;

To vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors;

To have access, on general terms of equality, to public service in his country.

Democracies flourish when all groups of society find avenues to exercise their franchise. At one level, it is estimated that of the 970 million eligible voters, 642 million Indians, including 312 million women, exercised their franchise. The Election

Commission of India (ECI) deployed more than 15 million polling and security personnel to ensure inclusivity and accessibility in the Elections.

The objective was to ensure that no eligible voter is deprived of their right to vote due to physical or other barriers. Most eligible Indians voted at the more than a million voting stations set up across the country. For the first time, the ECI extended the facility for voting from the comfort of home for senior citizens above 85 years of age, and Persons with Disabilities with 40% benchmark disability was extended all across India. Similarly, to ensure voting rights for internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Manipur and Jammu & Kashmir, special polling arrangements were made in Manipur, Delhi, Jammu, and Udhampur. Also, Braille was provided on Electronic Voting Machines, Braille-enabled Election Photo Identity Cards (EPIC), and voter slips were also used to assist visually impaired electors.

Apart from eradicating physical barriers to voting, efforts were made to address social barriers and stigma surrounding certain vulnerable populations like transgender people, sex workers, and other particularly vulnerable groups to ensure their participation in the election process.

The magnitude of this inclusive expression of free will by Indians of all faiths, from all regions and all sections of India's pluralistic society, can only be fathomed by placing this mammoth effort in a global perspective. In 2024, more than 50 national elections will be held worldwide. Over half of the polls have been completed as of 1 June 2024. The 642 million Indian citizens, including 312 million women, who exercised their franchise, are more than the rest of the voters world-

wide who have exercised their franchise in national elections in 2024 thus far.

In achieving this feat, India's electoral machinery has demonstrated remarkable resilience despite the prolonged election period and the extreme severity of the summer heat. The fulfillment of this democratic exercise has, however, taken an unusually heavy human toll. It has prompted the election commission to candidly acknowledge the necessity of reviewing whether the summer season can be avoided during general elections in the future. After all, the next general parliamentary elections in India will feature the first billion-person exercise of free will ever in the history of humankind. There is a need, therefore, to ensure that the shortcomings of the current arrangements are overcome by then.

Beyond the logistic marvel that Indian elections are, any assessment of the status of the human rights situation globally cannot overlook this display of the collective will of Indian citizens in fulfilling a vital part of the UDHR. Elections are the foundations of democratic governance and are crucial to preserving, protecting, and promoting other human rights. A society that celebrates the electoral exercise as a festival of democracy - as does India - reflects a deep commitment to the core values of humanity.

Now, in the aftermath of the Indian elections, is the best time for all who strive for human rights globally to salute this unparalleled and abiding Indian adherence to the electoral process. After all, how Indians govern themselves matters not only for India but for the situation of democracy and human rights the world over



Important interventions

Action against the Director of a Nashik Shelter Home for sexual exploitation of 16 girls

(Case No.4082/13/19/2022)

The interventions by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India have resulted in relief to several victims of human rights violations. Every month there are success stories to this effect. Adding to them there was another case in which the Commission was informed by the Maharashtra Government in response to its notices in a case of sexual exploitation of 16 girls at a Nashik Shelter Home where the accused Director of the said Home was arrested and the trial is going on in a court.

Financial assistance of ₹ 4 lakh each will be paid to all the victims. Out of this, ₹ 3 lakh each has been sanctioned to be paid in two installments. The remaining amount of ₹ 1 lakh each will be paid to them after the completion of the trial. Besides the financial assistance, the government has also admitted the victims to school for further education and the girls are also being given counselling at regular intervals.

The Commission has asked the District Women and Child Development Officer, Nashik to expedite the payment of the sanctioned installments of ₹ 3 lakh each to the victims and

disburse the remaining amount of ₹ 1 lakh each to them after the completion of the trial.

The Commission had registered the case suo moto based on the media reports about the incident on 28th November, 2022. The Chief Secretary and Director General of Police, Maharashtra, were issued notices calling for a detailed report in the matter including the status of the FIR specifying penal offences involved in the case, progress and outcome of investigation, arrest of the accused if any, health status of the victim girls and monetary relief/ rehabilitation if any, provided by the state authorities to the victims. They were expected to inform about the counselling provided to the victims, especially to the minor victims of the traumatic incident.

The Commission had also asked its Special Rapporteur for Maharashtra to submit a report in the matter. He informed that the sexual exploitation of minor girls was going on for more than three years and also during the pandemic period in 2019 and an FIR was registered.

Negligence called out in the death of a man due to stray dog attack

(Case No. 8107/24/3/2023)

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India, has asked the Government of Uttar Pradesh, through its Chief Secretary, that it pay ₹ 7.5 lakh to the next of kin of Safadr Ali Khan who was mauled to death by violent stray dogs in the Aligarh Muslim University campus in April last year. A compliance report of the proof of payment has also been sought.

The Commission had registered a *suo moto* case based on a media report dated 17th April, 2023 about the incident and issued the notices to the Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh, the Vice-Chancellor, Aligarh Muslim

University, and the Commissioner, Aligarh Municipal Corporation calling for a detailed report in the matter. The State Government was expected to inform whether any relief had been given to the deceased's next of kin (NoK).

Based on the material received on record in response from the concerned authorities, the Commission had issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh to show cause why ₹ 7.5 lakh should not be recommended to be paid as monetary relief to the next of kin of the victim. However, the authorities forwarded a letter from the Registrar of AMU, stating that the Commission's notice did

not require compliance from the University and that there was no violation of human rights or negligence on its part.

The Commission noted that the concerned authorities were avoiding their responsibility. It observed that the benefits arising from the order cannot be denied to the victims of a violation of human rights by the authority due to an act of negligence or abetment by the public servant. Accordingly, it confirmed the amount of relief of ₹ 7.5 lakh as mentioned in

its show cause notice recommending that it has to be paid to the victim's next of kin.

It may be recalled that a 65-year-old, Safadr Ali Khan was attacked to death by a pack of street dogs when he was out in a park inside Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) Campus for a morning walk. The incident was widely reported and a video of it also went viral on social media.

Suo motu cognizance

The media reports have been a very useful instrument for the Commission to know about the incidents of human rights violations. Over the years, it has taken *suo motu* cognizance of many such issues and brought succour to the victims of human rights violations. During

May, 2024, the Commission took *suo motu* cognizance in 01 case of alleged human rights violations reported by the media and issued notices to the concerned authorities for reports. Summaries of the cases are as follows:

Inadequate toilet facilities for differently-abled students

(Case No. 9161/24/19/2024)

The media reported that despite orders from the NITI Aayog, toilets for differently-abled students had not been constructed in 71 council schools of Chandauli district due to the indifference of the Uttar Pradesh State Construction Corporation. Reportedly, the responsibility for this construc-

tion was assigned to the Corporation, with funds allocated for each toilet. In the wake of these reported allegations, the Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh and the DM, Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh, calling for a detailed report in the matter.

Recommendations for relief

One of the primary responsibilities of the National Human Rights Commission, India, is to address cases of human rights violations, listen to the grievances of victims, and recommend appropriate relief in such instances. It regularly takes up various such cases and gives directions and recommendations to the concerned authorities for relief to the victims. In May, 2024, besides the number of cases taken up daily by the Member Benches, 82 cases were heard by the Full Commission, 58 cases by Double

Bench-I, 56 cases by Double Bench-II and 41 cases by Double Bench-III. Monetary relief of more than ₹ 222.65 lakh was recommended for the victims or their next of kin (NoK) in the 54 cases, wherein it was found that public servants had either violated human rights or been negligent in protecting them. The specific details of these cases can be downloaded from the NHRC website by logging the case number given in the table below:

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RELIEF

S. No.	Case Number	Nature of complaint	Amount (₹ in lakh)	Authority
1	2592/1/21/2022-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Andhra Pradesh
2	490/1/5/2023-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Andhra Pradesh
3	932/1/5/2023-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Andhra Pradesh
4	126/3/4/2023-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Assam
5	570/33/5/2023-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Chhattisgarh
6	5542/30/5/2020-JCD	Death in judicial custody	04.00	Delhi
7	1185/7/20/2023-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Haryana
8	1607/7/7/2022-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Haryana
9	1666/7/18/2022-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Haryana
10	1080/7/10/2023-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Haryana
11	1767/7/1/2022-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Haryana
12	1837/7/6/2023-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Haryana
13	1080/7/10/2023-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Haryana
14	312/7/5/2023-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Haryana
15	3207/7/3/2022-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Haryana
16	3355/7/7/2022-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Haryana
17	1263/34/6/2023-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Jharkhand
18	3469/13/28/2022-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Maharashtra
19	781/13/21/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Maharashtra
20	8/16/6/2023-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Mizoram
21	3872/18/25/2022-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Odisha
22	529/19/1/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	07.50	Punjab
23	1515/36/2/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Telangana
24	10939/24/18/2023-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Uttar Pradesh
25	29482/24/70/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Uttar Pradesh
26	4254/24/31/2019-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Uttar Pradesh
27	1671/25/5/2023-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	West Bengal
28	54/33/14/2020-PCD	Death in police custody	01.00	Chhattisgarh
29	950/19/12/2019-PCD	Death in police custody	05.00	Punjab
30	2728/25/2/2023-DH	Custodial death	05.00	West Bengal

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RELIEF

S. No.	Case Number	Nature of complaint	Amount (₹ in lakh)	Authority
31	117/7/5/2021-AD	Alleged custodial deaths in judicial custody	05.00	Haryana
32	1669/7/18/2023-AD	Alleged custodial deaths in police custody	10.00	Haryana
33	2754/7/1/2022-AD	Alleged custodial deaths in judicial custody	05.00	Haryana
34	2895/12/14/2020-AD	Alleged custodial deaths in judicial custody	05.00	Madhya Pradesh
35	1053/34/4/2020-AD	Alleged custodial deaths in police custody	05.00	Jharkhand
36	440/19/6/2020-AD	Alleged custodial deaths in police custody	07.50	Punjab
37	3564/30/6/2023-WC	Attempt to rape	00.50	Delhi
38	6033/30/8/2022-WC	Family dispute	01.00	Delhi
39	11189/24/22/2022-WC	Indignity of women	00.50	Uttar Pradesh
40	485/30/2/2023	Child rape	04.00	Delhi
41	526/12/35/2023	Child kidnapping	02.00	Madhya Pradesh
42	3779/12/8/2022	Death due to electrocution	05.00	Madhya Pradesh
43	3779/12/8/2022	Death due to electrocution	05.00	Madhya Pradesh
44	710/18/4/2023	Death due to electrocution	05.00	Odisha
45	4335/22/36/2022	Death due to electrocution	05.00	Tamil Nadu
46	28414/24/3/2023	Death due to electrocution	05.00	Uttar Pradesh
47	3940/30/2/2023	Abuse of power	00.50	Delhi
48	340/10/4/2022	Abuse of power	00.50	Karnataka
49	251/6/5/2023	Educational institutions/ technical institutions (Govt./Pvt.)	00.25	Gujarat
50	1344/34/7/2022	Irregularities in the implementa- tion of government welfare schemes	00.05	Jharkhand
51	91/34/6/2023	Inaction by the state govern- ment officials	00.10	Jharkhand
52	4847/25/11/2022	Non-payment of salary/wages	00.25	West Bengal
53	741/7/5/2023	Miscellaneous	10.00	Haryana
54	423/13/23/2023	Miscellaneous	00.25	Maharashtra

Payment of relief to the victims

The Commission disposed 55 cases, either on receipt of the compliance reports and proof of payment from the public authorities, or by giving other observations/directions. An amount of ₹ 235.75 lakh was paid to the victims

or their next of kin (NoK) on the recommendations of the Commission. The specific details of these cases can be downloaded from the NHRC website by logging the case number given in the table below:

S. No.	Case No	Nature of complaint	Amount (₹ in lakh)	Authority
1	2727/4/9/2020-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Bihar
2	1103/30/9/2020-JCD	Death in judicial custody	07.00	Delhi
3	1643/7/18/2022-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Haryana
4	2169/7/9/2022-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Haryana
5	1495/34/24/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Jharkhand
6	411/13/16/2019-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Maharashtra
7	464/18/10/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Odisha
8	7515/22/46/2020-JCD	Death in judicial custody	07.50	Tamil Nadu
9	1594/36/10/2020-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Telangana
10	13948/24/20/2019-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Uttar Pradesh
11	1921/25/10/2020-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	West Bengal
12	239/25/13/2022-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	West Bengal
13	54/33/14/2020-PCD	Death in police custody	01.00	Chhattisgarh
14	950/19/12/2019-PCD	Death in police custody	05.00	Punjab
15	149/3/28/2022-ED	Death in a police encounter	02.50	Assam
16	4052/30/9/2021-AD	Alleged custodial deaths in police custody	02.50	Delhi
17	1053/34/4/2020-AD	Alleged custodial deaths in police custody	05.00	Jharkhand
18	738/34/6/2019-AD	Alleged custodial deaths in judicial custody	05.00	Jharkhand
19	417/13/19/2020-AD	Alleged custodial deaths in police custody	10.00	Maharashtra
20	440/19/6/2020-AD	Alleged custodial deaths in police custody	07.50	Punjab
21	1635/1/6/2021-WC	Gang rape	00.25	Andhra Pradesh
22	5433/4/20/2022-WC	Rape	01.00	Bihar
23	8/27/0/2022-WC	Dowry death or their attempt	01.00	Chandigarh
24	959/10/1/2022-WC	Rape outside police station	02.00	Karnataka
25	485/30/2/2023	Child rape	04.00	Delhi
26	9423/24/30/2021	Child rape	03.00	Uttar Pradesh

PAYMENT OF RELIEF TO THE VICTIMS

S. No.	Case No	Nature of complaint	Amount (₹ in lakh)	Authority
27	7349/30/8/2021	Children	05.00	Delhi
28	3756/18/2/2022	Children	00.50	Odisha
29	47/6/1/2023	Children	06.00	Gujarat
30	2293/18/4/2020	Neonatal death	01.00	Odisha
31	2051/18/7/2022	Death due to electrocution	04.00	Odisha
32	2386/18/7/2022	Death due to electrocution	05.00	Odisha
33	2645/18/5/2021	Death due to electrocution	05.00	Odisha
34	2847/18/0/2022	Death due to electrocution	05.00	Odisha
35	4451/18/5/2022	Death due to electrocution	05.00	Odisha
36	28414/24/3/2023	Death due to electrocution	05.00	Uttar Pradesh
37	4684/25/5/2022	Death due to electrocution	03.00	West Bengal
38	4481/4/8/2021	Failure in taking lawful action	05.00	Bihar
39	7513/30/6/2022	Failure in taking lawful action	00.25	Delhi
40	673/4/38/2023	Corproal punishment in schools/ other education institutions	00.30	Bihar
41	1590/30/2/2023	Harassment of students and parents	00.25	Delhi
42	4895/30/1/2021	Other service disputes	02.00	Delhi
43	4712/20/6/2022	Medical negligence	02.00	Rajasthan
44	782/19/2/2020	Medical negligence	08.00	Punjab
45	4634/20/21/2022	Inaction by the state government/ central Govt. officials	03.00	Rajasthan
46	1462/7/0/2022	Inaction by the state government/central Govt. officials	00.10	Haryana
47	340/12/16/2018	Inaction by the state government/ central Govt. officials	02.00	Madhya Pradesh
48	1510/18/3/2022	Abuse of power	01.00	Odisha
49	28910/24/36/2019	Abuse of power	02.00	Uttar Pradesh
50	3746/24/10/2022	Abuse of power	03.00	Uttar Pradesh
51	8764/24/34/2021	Abuse of power	02.00	Uttar Pradesh
52	17350/24/39/2020	Victimization of SC	02.00	Uttar Pradesh
53	87/25/23/2022	Accidents in industry/ factory	34.00	West Bengal
54	741/7/5/2023	Miscellaneous	10.00	Haryana
55	7657/30/8/2022	Miscellaneous	00.10	Delhi

Case studies

In many cases, the Commission received compliance reports from the respective state authorities. Summaries of some of these cases are as under:

Non-payment of retirement benefits

(Case No. 4895/30/1/2021)

The matter pertained to the non-payment of retirement benefits to the complainant by his employer, the CAPART under the Union Ministry of Rural Development since his retirement in 2010. Within a few months after filing the complaint in the Commission in 2022, he passed away. His son giving the information to the Commission requested for its intervention in the payment of his father's lawful dues. Based on the material on record, the Commission found that despite approval by the competent authority for the payment of dues the disbursement of dues remained unpaid pending small procedural aspects including calculation of the amount. Therefore, the Commission recommended that the Department of Rural Development (DRD), Ministry of Rural Development pay a relief of 2 lakhs, in addition to the interest for the delay in disbursal of retiral dues to the next of kin of the deceased victim. A total amount of ₹ 2,31,575/- (₹ 2 lakh as compensation amount + ₹ 31,575/- as Interest on delayed payment of Gratuity and 6th Central Pay Commission arrears) was paid.

Medical negligence

(Case No. 782/19/2/2020)

The matter pertained to the incident where a girl having Thalassemia was given HIV-infected blood at Civil Hospital, Bhatinda, Punjab in 2020. The Commission issued notices to the concerned authorities in the Government of Punjab calling for reports. Based on the material on the record, the Commission found that it was not just one case but a total of five persons who became HIV positive due to the lapse on the part of District Hospital staff. Therefore, it recommended that the Government of Punjab pay a relief of ₹ 4 lakh each to the victims, which was paid.

Student dies after drinking contaminated water

(Case No. 4634/20/21/2022)

The matter pertained to the death of a student after drinking contaminated water in Jawahar Nagar in Kota, Rajasthan in

2022. Based on the material on record received from the concerned State authorities in response to its notices, the Commission found that about 65 students had fallen ill with liver problems and hepatitis. One student died during treatment on 13th October, 2022. The Commission recommended that the Government of Rajasthan pay relief of ₹ 3 lakh to the next of kin of the deceased student, which was paid.

Death of a child after the gate of a police station falls on him

(Case No. 47/6/1/2023)

The matter pertained to the incident where two children sustained injury leading to the death of one after the main gate of the newly constructed Police Station in Shaherkotda, Ahmedabad, Gujarat fell on them in 2023. Based on the material on record received from the concerned State authorities in response to its notices, it held both the State and the contractor responsible for their negligence. It recommended that the Government of Gujarat pay ₹ 5 lakh as relief to the family of the deceased child and ₹ 1 lakh to the injured child, which was paid.

Spot enquires

The following spot enquiries were conducted during May, 2024 by the Commission's officers in its Investigation Division:

S. No.	Case number	Complaint	Date of enquiry
1.	539/90/0/2023	Poor children, women, and differently-abled people being forced into beggary in Delhi.	13th-17th May, 2024
2.	11155/24/48/202	Death of a farmer due to torture and brutal assault in police custody in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.	27th – 30th May, 2024

Field visits

Visits of Special Rapporteurs and Special Monitors

Special Rapporteurs

- From 17th - 22nd May, 2024, Shri Umesh Kumar visited Mahadevi Matri Mandir, an adoption home situated in Sarania Hills, Guwahati to assess the living conditions and report on the status of human rights.



- From 20th - 25th May, 2024, Shri Mahesh Kumar Singla visited District Jails in Barnala and Sangrur, Punjab to assess the condition of the inmates and the facilities made available to them.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India has designated 15 Special Rapporteurs to monitor human rights conditions across various regions of the country. They conduct visits to shelter homes, prisons, observation homes, and similar institutions, compiling reports for the Commission that detail their observations and suggestions for future action. Additionally, the Commission has appointed 17 Special Monitors, who are tasked with overseeing specific thematic human rights issues and reporting their findings to the Commission. Throughout May 2024, both Special Rapporteurs and Special Monitors conducted visits to numerous locations.

Special Monitors

- From 14th - 18th May, 2024, Shri Prem Singh Bisht undertook a visit to a training institute located in Pune, Maharashtra. The purpose of the visit was to assess the institute's compliance to human rights, and highlight practices that violated human rights.
- On 22nd May, 2024, Shri Fauzan Alavi visited Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh to observe and report on the condition of sewage workers there.

Training –Building bonds through awareness of human rights

Online short-term internship concludes

The two-week online short-term internship program organized by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India concluded on 10th May, 2024. About 69 students from different universities in the country participated and successfully completed it.

Addressing the valedictory session, Shri Rajiv Jain, Member, NHRC highlighted how the internship had deepened the interns' understanding of human rights issues, especially from the perspective of the victim, and helped in fostering empathy for marginalized communities. He urged them to advocate for justice and equality, emphasizing their crucial role as human rights advocates.

Shri Devendra Kumar Nim, Joint Secretary, NHRC, presented the internship report during the session, announcing the winners of the book review, group research project presentation, and declamation competition.



NHRC, India Member,
Shri Rajiv Jain addressing
the valedictory session

Throughout the program, interns had the opportunity to attend sessions led by NHRC, India Members, Former Principal Advisors, Former Chief Information Commissioner, and other esteemed professionals, gaining invaluable insights into the workings of the Commission and the various challenges surrounding human rights violations.

Additionally, virtual visits to institutions such as Tihar Jail, Police Stations, and Asha Kiran Shelter Home were organized for a hands-on understanding of their functions. Curated short films addressing various human rights issues were also screened for the interns, providing them with a comprehensive understanding of the realities at the grassroots.



NHRC Joint Secretary,
Shri Devendra Kumar
Nim presenting the
Internship report

Student & faculty visits

The NHRC, India, invites college students and their faculty members to visit the Commission, with the aim to raise their awareness of human rights, enhance their understanding of these rights, the protection mechanism, and how the Commission functions in accordance with the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA) 1993 to achieve this purpose.

During the month of May, about 64 students and one faculty member from the Law Centre - II Faculty of Law, University of Delhi, visited the NHRC. They were briefed about the functioning of the Law & Investigation Divisions and about the complaints management system by senior officers of the Commission. They were also administered the human rights pledge.



Moot Courts

To promote awareness about the legal acumen and the various aspects of human rights among students of law, the Commission sponsors Moot Court competitions. On 24th May, 2024, NHRC, India in collaboration with the National Law University and Judicial Academy (NLUJA), Assam organized the 5th Gurjeet Singh Memorial Moot Court Competition. The theme was 'Ensuring Human Rights by Combating Gender Discrimination and Promoting Equal Opportunities.' About 20 teams from universities across India participated in the competition.



Awards scheme

NHRC Short Films Competition, 2024

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India has invited entries for its 10th Annual Competition for Short Films on Human Rights. The last date to submit the entries is 30th August, 2024. The winning entries will be awarded.

The Short Film Awards scheme was instituted by the Commission in 2015. The scheme aims to encourage and acknowledge cinematic and creative efforts of Indian citizens, irrespective of their age, towards promoting and protecting human rights. In the previous years, the Commission received tremendous response in the form of hundreds of eye-opening stories on human rights from different parts of the country.

The short films may be in English or any Indian language with subtitles in English. The duration of the short film should be a minimum of 3 minutes and a maximum of 10 minutes. It could be a documentary, a dramatization of real events, or a work of fiction. The film can be in any technical shooting and filmmaking format, including animation.

The themes of short films should be based on various socio-economic, cultural, and political rights, preferably within the

ambit of the following:

- Right to life, liberty, equality and dignity;
- Covering issues specific to bonded and child labour, women & children's rights;
- Rights in challenges of elderly persons;
- Rights of persons with disability;
- Manual scavenging, right to healthcare;
- Issues of fundamental freedoms;
- Human trafficking;
- Domestic violence;
- Human rights violations due to police atrocities;
- Custodial violence and torture;
- Socio-economic disparities;
- Rights of Nomadic and Denotified Tribes;
- Prison reforms;
- Right to education;

- Right to a clean environment including environmental hazards impacting life on planet Earth;
- Right to work;
- Right to equality before the law;
- Right to food and nutritional security;
- Rights of LGBTQI+;
- Human rights violation due to displacement on account of either man-made or natural calamity;
- Celebrating human rights and values in Indian diversity; and

- Development initiatives improving life and living standards

There is no application fee or bar on the number of entries an individual can send to participate in the contest. However, the participants must send each film separately with a duly filled entry form. The terms & conditions, along with the entry form, can be downloaded from the NHRC website: www.nhrc.nic.in.

The film, completed application form, and other requisite documents may be sent through Google Drive to nhrcshortfilm@gmail.com. Any additional queries may also be sent to this email address.

Articles, poems, stories for NHRC Hindi annual journal - Nayi Dishayein

On 15th May, 2024 a meeting of the Advisory Board for the Commission's Annual Journal in Hindi 'Manav Adhikar: Nai Dishayein, Volume-21' was organized under the chairmanship of Shri Bharat Lal, Secretary General, NHRC, India, to decide the contents and to discuss ways to make it more engaging to the readers. 'Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah' has been decided as the central theme of the journal, with the following sub-themes on which articles, stories and poems may be contributed:

- Right to clean drinking water;
- Right to justice;
- Right to nutrition;
- Rights of displaced people;
- Rights of persons with disabilities;
- Rights of the transgender community;
- Manual scavenging – a curse;
- Women empowerment;
- Right to health: with special reference to mental health and
- Degradation of water, forests and land

The members of the Advisory Board present in the meeting were – Shri D.K. Nim, Joint Secretary; Lt. Col. Virendra Singh, Director; Smt. Anjali Saklani, Assistant Director (Hindi); Prof Ramgopal Singh, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad; Prof Shraddha Singh, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi; Prof Shivprasad Shukla, Allahabad University; Shri Balram, Editor, Contemporary Indian Literature Magazine, Sahitya Academy, New Delhi; Smt Sarvamitra Surjan, Journalist and Writer, Noida; and Shri Rakesh B. Dubey, Former Director, Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs.

The article, story, and poem (up to 2,000 words) must be written in Mangal font (Unicode). A brief bio-data and self-declaration from the contributor confirming that it is his/ her original unpublished work may be sent only to the dedicated email id patrika-nhrc@gov.in latest by 10th June, 2024. Submissions will be reviewed by experts and shortlisted for publication in the journal. The honorarium for the published works will be ₹ 10,000 for an article, ₹ 5,000 for a story, and ₹ 3,000 for a poem.

NHRC in the International arena

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India continues to engage with various international programmes to foster exchange of ideas on various aspects of human rights. Several foreign institutional delegates visit the Commission and meet the Chairperson and Members to understand the functioning of the Com-

mission for the promotion and protection of human rights. The Commission's Chairperson, Members and other senior officers also visit various international forums to share their thoughts on the achievements of the Commission, interact with other NHRIs, and discuss the challenges to human rights in the fast-evolving world.

14th Open Ended Working Group on Ageing in New York

Hon'ble Member, NHRC India, Smt Vijaya Bharathi Sayani and Joint Secretary, Smt Anita Sinha participated in the 14th Open Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWGA) in New York from 20th -24th May, 2024. The Member gave a statement on access to health to older persons in India. She said that India is strengthening a strong data foundation, investing in geriatric care expertise, and improving accessibility of healthcare services for the overall well-being and dignity of older persons.

Smt Vijaya Bharathi Sayani also drew attention to the advisory issued by the NHRC and the work of the Commission's Core Group on Older Persons, which has been set up to ensure the welfare of older persons by improving the implementation of sound policies. She added that in addition to various seminars and workshops organized by the NHRC, visits are also made to shelter homes, old age homes, hospitals, prisons and mental healthcare institutions for an assessment of the facilities.

NHRC, India Joint Secretary, Smt Anita Sinha addressed a session on the 'Participation of Older Persons in Public Life and Decision-Making Processes' in the OEWGA. Briefing about the various national welfare schemes, she said that India has a comprehensive framework to ensure the active participation of older persons in public life. She said that NHRC, India plays a vital role in protecting and promoting their human rights through continuous policy review, collaboration, issuing advisories, visits to old age homes, and public awareness campaigns.

Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani also met the Members of the NHRIs of South Africa, Croatia, Australia, Kenya, Poland and Germany on the sidelines of the conference. They shared their best practices for the promotion and protection of human rights, discussed human rights issues, and examined the possibilities of collaborative programmes. The Member also met Ambassador Yojna Patel, Deputy Permanent Representative in the Permanent Mission of India, besides visiting the UN offices in New York.



NHRC, India Member, Smt Vijaya Bharathi Sayani giving a statement on access to health to older persons in India



Member, NHRC India, Smt Vijaya Bharathi Sayani and Joint Secretary, Smt Anita Sinha with delegates

The visit of the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to India

The enduring bond between India and Sri Lanka, rooted in shared history and cultural values, was further strengthened by the visit of Ms Kshenuka Senewiratne to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India. Her meeting with Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal led to a meaningful exchange on human rights issues. Shri Lal showcased India's commitment to human rights through its constitutional measures and the NHRC's proactive role. He also expressed NHRC, India's readiness to collaborate with other National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) globally, particularly through capacity-building initiatives to enhance human rights protection and promotion. Embodying the spirit of '*Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah*,' which translates to 'May all be happy,' India reaffirms its solidarity with the global South, viewing the world as one family.



The visit of the Chief of Mission, UNHCR India

UNHCR India delegation led by Chief of Mission, Ms Areti Sianni, Chief of Mission, Ms Margriet Veenma, Assoc. Protection Officer, Ms Ragini Trakroo Zutshi & Assistant Government Liaison Officer, Mr. Sunod Jacob visited the Commission on 3rd May, 2024. During their meetings with the officials of the NHRC, they discussed India's remarkable track-record of providing refuge and support to displaced people throughout its history. While India has been a haven for refugees before and post Independence, the Indian Constitution also envisions human rights and dignity for all. In this light, the role of NHRC, India, in protecting the human rights of refugees was highlighted.



The visit of the Head of Taskforce on Women's Rights & Gender Equality, The Netherlands, and the Ambassador of the Netherlands to India

A Netherlands delegation led by Ms Karen Burbach, Head of Taskforce on Women's Rights & Gender Equality, Ms Marina Gerards, Ambassador to India, Ms Nienke Bleker, Policy Officer, Mr Joost van Oostenbruggen, Second Secretary & Ms Daan de Boer visited the Commission on 13th May, 2024. They had a meaningful discussion with the Secretary General, NHRC, India Shri Bharat Lal on the various aspects of women's empowerment and SDG-5. He highlighted the various initiatives taken by the Government to empower women, encourage their participation in decision-making, and provide financial independence and skill development. He also highlighted the role played by the National and State Commissions for Women, NHRC, and SHRCs to protect the rights of women.



The visit of the Ambassador of Italy to India

The Ambassador of Italy to India, Mr. Vincenzo de Luca visited the Commission on 21st May, 2024. He held a detailed conversation with Shri Bharat Lal, Secretary General, NHRC, India, on the recent advances in protecting human rights and emerging challenges globally. The meeting also touched upon the deep-rooted ancient civilizational ethos of India and Italy, and the upswing in relations between the countries.



News in brief

- On 1st May, 2024, NHRC, India Member, Shri Rajiv Jain attended the GANHRI SCA Meeting online.
- On 2nd May, 2024, NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Arun Mishra addressed as the Chief Guest a function organized to launch the book 'Yearning for Ram Mandir and Fulfilment' written by Justice Kamleshwar Nath at the Ambedkar International Centre Windsor Place, New Delhi. The event was organized by Garuda Prakashan and Bharat Shodh Sansthan. Justice Mishra highlighted the significance of the Ram Rajya wherein people lived in harmony following human and ethical values with a progressive outlook.
- On 10th May, 2024, NHRC, India Member, Shri Rajiv Jain initiated discussions in a session on 'Criminal Justice Administration and Human Rights' in the 7-day training programme organized by the National Judicial Academy, Bhopal for Bangladesh Judges & Judicial Officers.
- On 17th May, 2024, NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Arun Mishra addressed the second Graduation ceremony of the Kautilya School of Public Policy, Hyderabad as the Chief Guest. He termed public policy significant for pursuing justice, equity, and the common good.
- On 18th May, 2024, Shri Surajit Dey, Registrar (Law), NHRC presided at a workshop on 'Harmonisation of ESG, CSR, CDR, and SDGs' organized by SKOCH Group at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.
- On 18th May, 2024, NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Arun Mishra chaired a session on the 'Regulatory Standards & Monitoring Mechanism' in the high power expert group meeting on 'Strengthening criminal Justice System through Enhanced Forensic Efficiency' organized by National Forensic Science University, Gandhinagar. Emphasizing the importance of forensic evidence in the crime tracking system, he emphasized that all stakeholders must support scientific endeavours for the timely detection of crimes to ensure justice for the victim and the accused.
- On 28th May, 2024, NHRC, India, Joint Secretary, Smt. Anita Sinha attended the 1st meeting of the Drafting Committee for the Guiding Principles on the Role of NHRIs in Conflict Situations in the Asia Pacific.

Forthcoming events

10th June to 5th July 2024

From 10th June to 5th July, 2024, NHRC, India will organize its Summer Internship programme for university-level students at its premises.

18th June to 21st June 2024

From 18th June to 21st June, 2024, NHRC, India will organize the first residential capacity building programme on Human Rights for senior forest officers in collaboration with the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

7th June to 7th July 2024

NHRC, India will launch an online photography competition on its website and MyGov portal from 7th June to 7th July, 2024 to promote Human Rights

11th July 2024

On 11th July, 2024, NHRC, India will organize a core group meeting on business and human rights in hybrid mode at its premises.

Complaint management in May, 2024

Complaints received	5,851
Disposed off	6,201
Under consideration of the Commission	5,470

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RNI No. 59340/94